

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted in response to the communication dated April 22, 2003.

Status of the Claims

Claims 59-65 are pending in the application and stand variously rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants address these rejections as provided herein below and respectfully request reconsideration of the Claims 59-65 for allowance.

The Double Patenting Rejections

The Examiner has rejected Claims 59, 60 and 65 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 2, 3, 6 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,290 (effective filing date 08/17/1994) ("the '290 Patent"). The Examiner asserts that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the cited claims of the instant invention is generic to all that is recited in the cited claims of the '290 Patent. Applicants recognize the Examiner's point with regard to the rejection of Claims 59, 60 and 65 over Claims 2, 3, 6 and 8 of the '290 Patent and submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over A Prior Patent with respect to the '290 Patent.

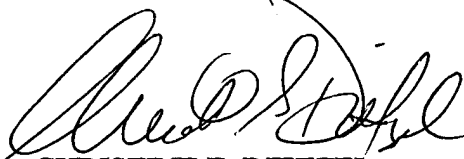
The Examiner has rejected claims 59, 60 and 63-65 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3, 7, 9, 10 and 15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,471,956 (effective filing date 08/17/1994) ("the '956 Patent"). The Examiner asserts that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the cited claims of the instant invention is generic to all that is recited in the cited claims of the '956 Patent. Applicants recognize the Examiner's point with regard to the rejection of Claims 59, 60 and 63-65 over Claims 3, 7, 9, 10 and 15 of the '956 Patent and submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over A Prior Patent with respect to the '956 Patent.

In view of the Terminal Disclaimers, Applicants submit that the double patenting rejections have now been fully addressed and overcome.

Conclusion

The claims as presented herein are believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of all the outstanding rejections is believed to be in order. Early and favorable action on the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine E. Dietzel", written over a horizontal line.

CHRISTINE E. DIETZEL
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 37,309

KLAUBER & JACKSON
411 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
(201) 487-5800